

HONORING ALEXANDRA  
MCGREGOR

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, two years ago I met a young high school student who had a brilliant and patriotic idea. Alexandra McGregor, from Waterford, Michigan, set out to establish a "Support the Troops Day" and, for the third year in a row, I am introducing a resolution inspired by Alexandra.

Alexandra's extraordinary effort started as a grassroots campaign to encourage people to take a moment and reflect on the service and sacrifice of those currently in our military. What began as a small effort by a local high school student has turned into a nation-wide event honoring our active duty military men and women.

Every year, Americans participate in numerous patriotic celebrations; from past Presidents to our veterans. But never do we honor our active-duty military men and women who are protecting our freedom today. With inspiration from Alexandra, my resolution encourages Americans to participate in a moment of silence on March 26th to reflect on the sacrifice of those who are serving this country both at home and abroad.

Madam Speaker, "Support the Troops Day" is a yearly celebration in Oakland County, Michigan and I come to the floor today to reintroduce the resolution marking March 26th as "Support the Troops Day." Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed similar resolutions two years ago and I hope this Congress will actively show its support for our service members by passing this resolution.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, due to flight delays in traveling from my congressional district to Washington DC, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 23 and 24. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the immeasurable community contributions of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida after 80 years of devoted service.

In 1928, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity recognized the growing need for the Lord's work with the poor and disadvantaged and traveled to Pensacola,

Florida to form the Bureau of Catholic Charities. The group aided in a variety of ministries such as social services, nursing, and education. Catholic Charities has operated out of a responsibility "to answer Christ's call to help those in need," regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. Over 90 percent of those they have served are not Catholic.

Ten years earlier, this same congregation of Roman Catholic sisters founded in Holy Trinity, Alabama, traveled to Pensacola to begin their ministries at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. However, these women were faced with unfortunate conditions that jeopardized their health, and it proved impossible to carry out their mission at that time. While their mission was delayed, they soon returned and were able to administer their "dynamic and effective system for bringing about a better society."

Catholic Charities has been a devoted caretaker of the region since its inception, with continuous growth as they have expanded their services to include all charity work within the Pensacola area and have opened several offices to better serve members of the community. They have been instrumental in creating a kindhearted and compassionate environment in Northwest Florida.

This remarkable organization has also implemented programs to assist with disaster recovery, refugee resettlement, immigration processes, and child placement to help build strong, loving families. Catholic Charities' dedication and vision has touched the lives of countless people and will forever be appreciated by generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a generous group that has served as an inspiration to us all. I am proud to honor Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida for their deep sense of personal service to the Lord's work for so many years.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR GLENN "OMODIENDE" REITZ

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Philadelphia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and accomplishments of Mr. Glenn "Omodiende" Reitz. Glenn Reitz was a scholar, teacher, and socio-political activist, whose life and life's work is a testament of one's ability to triumph over adversity, and transcend race, class, and gender in order to actualize a more humanist conception of community. His African name "Omodiende" means "the child returns"; Glenn's zealous approach to life befits his given name.

Glenn was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on April 7, 1964. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1982 to 1994 when he was medically retired. He then enrolled at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree in African American Studies. Given his ultimate search for truth, his love of knowledge, and his innovative and ingenious nature, it is no surprise that at the time of his death, Mr. Reitz was in the process of pursuing a PhD in African American Studies.

Glenn lived with HIV/AIDS for over 18 years, and in that time created a legacy that can never be replicated. Rejecting his physical condition as a debilitating force, Glenn developed his mind in ways that placed him in a rare class of human beings who do not seek knowledge just for knowledge's sake, but to transcend normal social constructs of race and gender, to transform status quo, and to positively alter our communities. It goes without saying that Glenn was not a genius for genius' sake.

Combining his ontology with social activism made Glenn a pillar in his Philadelphia Community. I know that he would find my submission of remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in his honor quite ironic and entertaining given the fact that he was very critical of government and many government policies. Even though I know he would debate (and possibly contest) this assertion, I believe that Glenn was the ultimate example of a true American precisely because he challenged and critiqued our system and policy of governance; he truly believed that status quo was never acceptable; that things could always be improved. Glenn's social philanthropy is evidence of his convictions. He worked with the City to develop a safe playground for his North Philadelphia neighborhood, worked with prison programs to directly address the needs of those who are incarcerated, mentored countless young people, taught and participated in many community educational programs on HIV/AIDS, and taught a class on Death and Dying. In 43 brief years, he accomplished what many never achieve in a lifetime.

Glenn departed this life on December 14, 2007 and will be sorely missed by his family, friends, loved ones, and community. His phenomenal human spirit should be an inspiration to us all.

#### RECOGNIZING JAMES CLIFFORD SEWARD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Clifford Seward, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. He has earned many awards and has held many leadership positions including librarian, historian and assistant patrol leader. Not only has James had many accomplishments within his troop but he has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Clifford Seward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.